

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed November 20, 2002 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-10 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, and 8 have been amended, no claims have been canceled or newly added. Therefore, claims 1-10 are pending in the application and are submitted for reconsideration by the examiner.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 4,993,068 to Piosenka et al. (hereafter "Piosenka"), in view of U.S. patent 5,214,699 to Monroe et al. (hereafter "Monroe"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons. Amended independent claims 1, 4 and 8 include a peripheral controller to control the living body characteristic detector. This feature is neither shown nor suggested in either Piosenka or Monroe. Thus, even if these references could be combined, the combination could not render these claims obvious. Further, because all of the dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend, the combination of Piosenka and Monroe cannot render the dependent claims obvious. Applicants submit that all of the claims are now in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the application or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 20, 2003

Customer Number: 22428



22428

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Attached: Attachment A

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.



ATTACHMENT A

Amended version of claim amendments made in the Amendment filed February 20, 2002

1. (Amended) A personal identification device for executing personal identification by employing living body characteristics of a user, comprising:

- a identification condition data reader for reading identification condition data specifying at least one living body characteristic stored in a portable storage media carried by the user for the personal identification;
- a living body characteristic detector for detecting from the user the living body characteristic data corresponding to the identification condition data read by said identification condition data reader; [and]
- a peripheral controller to control the living body characteristic detector; and
- an identifier for performing personal identification by comparing the living body characteristic data detected by the living body characteristic detector with living body characteristic data of users previously obtained.

4. (Amended) A personal identification apparatus for performing personal identification by employing living body characteristics of a user having a central device, and a plurality of personal identification terminals, each of said personal identification terminals comprising:

- a identification condition data reader for reading identification condition data specifying at least one living body characteristic stored in a portable storage media carried by a user;
- a living body characteristic detector for detecting from said user the living body characteristic data corresponding to the identification condition data read by said identification condition data reader;
- a peripheral controller to control the living body characteristic detector;

an identifier for performing personal identification by comparing the living body characteristic data detected by said living body characteristic detector with living body characteristic data of users obtained previously; and  
a communicator for communicating with said central device.

8. (Amended) A personal identification method for detecting living body characteristics of a user to compare the detected characteristics with the living body characteristic data previously obtained about the user to execute personal identification, comprising the steps of:

storing identification condition data specifying at least one living body characteristics for the personal identification into a portable storage media to be carried by the user; and

detecting living body characteristic data corresponding to the identification condition data read from said portable storage media from the user to execute the personal identification,

wherein detecting the living body characteristic data comprises operating a living body characteristic detector controlled by a peripheral controller.